

Zika or Ebola, and chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear attacks whether from terrorist groups or from nation states.

The threats we face are not hypothetical.

Since August of this year, 315 people in the Democratic Republic of Congo have died from Ebola. The ongoing Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo is now the second largest outbreak in history. More than 530 cases have been reported with 18 new confirmed cases over the weekend.

Thanks to PAHPA and the 21st Century Cures Act, we are more prepared for biological threats and attacks. In July, the FDA approved the first drug to treat smallpox—TPOXX. But, TPOXX is not the only recent approval at the FDA. On July 10th, the FDA approved an autoinjector which provides a one-time dose of an antidote to block effects of a nerve agent. This new antidote and TPOXX will help protect Americans from biological attacks.

But, PAHPA is much more than just a bio-defense bill. It also helps ensure a coordinated health care response to hurricanes. During the 2017 hurricane season, Hurricanes Florence, Harvey, Irma, Jose, and Maria killed hundreds of Americans and showed us that we need to do better to prioritize the needs of every person in our communities. The PAHPA bill we are considering today does that by prioritizing our nation's most vulnerable populations—our children, senior citizens, and people with disabilities. It reauthorizes the advisory committee focused on the specific needs of children, and creates NEW advisory committees to ensure the needs of the elderly and people with disabilities are considered.

The bill provides liability protections for doctors who volunteer after a medical disaster. In addition to these Good Samaritan provisions, the bill also ensures more health care professionals like nurses and doctors can be hired and trained when facing a public health crisis by strengthening the National Disaster Medical System, which provides grants to our regional health care network. It also ensures we have a robust supply of vaccines, basic equipment like gloves, hazmat suits, masks and more in our Strategic National Stockpiles located all across the country, so these professionals have the equipment they need.

PAHPA ensures our preparedness and response capabilities will include a robust pipeline of medical countermeasures by reauthorizing and increasing funding for the BioShield Special Reserve Fund and BARDA—the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority. BARDA's work over the last decade has resulted in FDA approvals for more than 42 different medical countermeasures. The development of medical countermeasures is a lengthy and often risky endeavor, which is why sending a clear signal that BARDA remains a strong and committed partner with academic institutions and the private sector in these efforts is so important.

In September, we saw another example of the success of research funded by BARDA when the FDA approved ReCell—the first spray on skin product ever approved for use in the United States. This new treatment will help treat burn victims so that they can heal faster and with less risk of infection from painful skin grafts. By using a piece of a patient's skin about the size of a credit card, a doctor can turn it into a single cell based solution that can be sprayed over the patient's burns so

that new skin can grow and replace the damaged and burnt skin.

While the investments BARDA is making into innovative research and new treatments are critical, it is also important that we continue to address threats that have been around for years. It has been 100 years since the 1918 pandemic influenza killed millions of people around the globe including 675,000 in the United States. Some experts predict that we are due for another global pandemic influenza. To address that threat, the bill we are considering today authorizes \$250 million for the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (the ASPR) to address threats like pandemic influenza. Specifically, the bill directs the ASPR to work to increase manufacturing capacity and stockpile medical countermeasures. While the PAHPA bill we are considering today authorizes funding for research into known threats like pandemic influenza it also maintains the flexibility that is the foundation of our medical countermeasure enterprise to deal with unknown threats for which we may have no defense today.

The PAHPA reauthorization bill we are considering is the process of months of committee work in both the House and Senate. I cannot emphasize enough how critically important it is to reauthorize PAHPA this year, and I encourage the Senate to quickly take up and pass H.R. 7328.

I would urge all Members to support this critical piece of legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7328.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1200

ASHANTI ALERT ACT OF 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 5075) to encourage, enhance, and integrate Ashanti Alert plans throughout the United States, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Ashanti Alert Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF ASHANTI ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.

Kristen's Act (Public Law 106-468; 114 Stat. 2027) is amended—

(1) by inserting before section 2 (34 U.S.C. 40504) the following:

"TITLE I—GRANTS";

(2) by redesignating sections 2 (34 U.S.C. 40504) and 3 (34 U.S.C. 40504 note) as sections 101 and 102, respectively;

(3) in section 101(b), as so redesignated, by striking "this Act" and inserting "this title";

(4) in section 102, as so redesignated, by striking "this Act" and inserting "this title"; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

"TITLE II—ASHANTI ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

"SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.

"In this title:

"(1) AMBER ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.—The term 'AMBER Alert communications network' means the AMBER Alert communications network established under subtitle A of title III of the PROTECT Act (34 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.).

"(2) ASHANTI ALERT.—The term 'Ashanti Alert' means an alert issued through the Ashanti Alert communications network, related to a missing adult.

"(3) ASHANTI ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.—The term 'Ashanti Alert communications network' means the national communications network established by the Attorney General under section 202(a).

"(4) ASHANTI ALERT COORDINATOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE; COORDINATOR.—The term 'Ashanti Alert Coordinator of the Department of Justice' or 'Coordinator' means the employee designated by the Attorney General to act as the national coordinator of the Ashanti Alert communications network under section 203(a).

"(5) ASHANTI ALERT PLAN.—The term 'Ashanti Alert plan' means a local element of the Ashanti Alert communications network.

"(6) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'Indian Tribe' means a federally recognized Indian Tribe or a Native village, Regional Corporation, or Village Corporation (as those terms are defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602)).

"(7) MISSING ADULT.—The term 'missing adult' means an individual who—

"(A) is older than the age for which an alert may be issued through the AMBER Alert communications network in the State or territory of an Indian Tribe in which the individual is identified as a missing individual;

"(B) is identified by a law enforcement agency as a missing individual; and

"(C) meets the requirements to be designated as a missing adult, as determined by the State in which, or the Indian Tribe in the territory of which, the individual is identified as a missing individual.

"(8) STATE.—The term 'State' means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"SEC. 202. ASHANTI ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, establish a national communications network within the Office of Justice Programs of the Department of Justice to provide assistance to regional and local search efforts for missing adults through the initiation, facilitation, and promotion of local elements of the network, in coordination with States, Indian Tribes, units of local government, law enforcement agencies, and other concerned entities with expertise in providing services to adults.

"(b) INTEGRATION WITH EXISTING COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.—In establishing the Ashanti Alert communications network under subsection (a), the Attorney General shall coordinate, when advisable, with missing person alert systems in existence as of the date of enactment of this title, such as the AMBER Alert communications network and Silver Alert communications networks.

"SEC. 203. ASHANTI ALERT COORDINATOR.

"(a) NATIONAL COORDINATOR WITHIN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—The Attorney General shall designate an employee of the Office of Justice

Programs of the Department of Justice to act as the national coordinator of the Ashanti Alert communications network.

“(b) DUTIES OF THE COORDINATOR.—In acting as the national coordinator of the Ashanti Alert communications network, the Coordinator shall—

“(1) work with States and Indian Tribes to encourage the development of additional Ashanti Alert plans in the network;

“(2) establish voluntary guidelines for States and Indian Tribes to use in developing Ashanti Alert plans that will promote compatible and integrated Ashanti Alert plans throughout the United States, including—

“(A) a list of the resources necessary to establish an Ashanti Alert plan;

“(B) criteria for evaluating whether a situation warrants issuing an Ashanti Alert, taking into consideration the need for the use of Ashanti Alerts to be limited in scope because the effectiveness of the Ashanti Alert communications network may be affected by overuse, including criteria to determine—

“(i) whether the mental capacity of an adult who is missing, and the circumstances of his or her disappearance, including any history of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, or human trafficking, warrant the issuance of an Ashanti Alert; and

“(ii) whether the individual who reports that an adult is missing is an appropriate and credible source on which to base the issuance of an Ashanti Alert;

“(C) a description of the appropriate uses of the Ashanti Alert name to readily identify the nature of search efforts for missing adults; and

“(D) recommendations on how to protect the privacy, dignity, independence, autonomy, and safety of any missing adult who may be the subject of an Ashanti Alert;

“(3) develop proposed protocols for efforts to recover missing adults and to reduce the number of adults who are reported missing, including protocols for procedures that are needed from the time of initial notification of a law enforcement agency that the adult is missing through the time of the return of the adult to family, guardian, or domicile, as appropriate, including—

“(A) public safety communications protocol;

“(B) case management protocol;

“(C) command center operations;

“(D) reunification protocol;

“(E) incident review, evaluation, debriefing, and public information procedures; and

“(F) protocols for declining to issue an Ashanti Alert;

“(4) work with States and Indian Tribes to ensure appropriate regional coordination of various elements of the network;

“(5) establish an advisory group to assist States, Indian Tribes, units of local government, law enforcement agencies, and other entities involved in the Ashanti Alert communications network with initiating, facilitating, and promoting Ashanti Alert plans, which shall include—

“(A) to the maximum extent practicable, representation from the various geographic regions of the United States; and

“(B) members who are—

“(i) representatives of adult citizen advocacy groups, law enforcement agencies, victim service providers (as defined in section 40002(a) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291(a)), and public safety communications;

“(ii) broadcasters, first responders, dispatchers, and radio station personnel; and

“(iii) representatives of any other individuals or organizations that the Coordinator determines are necessary to the success of the Ashanti Alert communications network; and

“(6) act as the nationwide point of contact for—

“(A) the development of the network; and

“(B) regional coordination of alerts for missing adults through the network.

“(c) COORDINATION.—

“(1) COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES.—The Coordinator shall coordinate and consult with the Secretary of Transportation, the Federal Communications Commission, the Assistant Secretary for Aging of the Department of Health and Human Services, and other appropriate offices of the Department of Justice, including the Office on Violence Against Women, in carrying out activities under this title.

“(2) STATE, TRIBAL, AND LOCAL COORDINATION.—The Coordinator shall consult with local broadcasters and State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies in establishing minimum standards under section 204 and in carrying out other activities under this title, as appropriate.

“(d) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this title, and annually thereafter, the Coordinator shall submit to Congress a report on—

“(A) the activities of the Coordinator; and

“(B) the effectiveness and status of the Ashanti Alert plan of each State or Indian Tribe that has established or is in the process of establishing such a plan.

“(2) CONTENTS.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) a list of each State or Indian Tribe that has established an Ashanti Alert plan;

“(B) a list of each State or Indian Tribe that is in the process of establishing an Ashanti Alert plan;

“(C) for each State or Indian Tribe that has established an Ashanti Alert plan, to the extent the data is available—

“(i) the number of Ashanti Alerts issued;

“(ii) the number of missing adults located successfully;

“(iii) the average period of time between the issuance of an Ashanti Alert and the location of the missing adult for whom the Alert was issued;

“(iv) the State or Tribal agency or authority issuing Ashanti Alerts, and the process by which Ashanti Alerts are disseminated;

“(v) the cost of establishing and operating the Ashanti Alert plan;

“(vi) the criteria used by the State or Indian Tribe to determine whether to issue an Ashanti Alert; and

“(vii) the extent to which missing adults for whom Ashanti Alerts were issued crossed State lines or territorial borders of an Indian Tribe;

“(D) actions States and Indian Tribes have taken to protect the privacy and dignity of the missing adults for whom Ashanti Alerts are issued;

“(E) ways that States and Indian Tribes have facilitated and improved communication about missing adults between families, caregivers, law enforcement officials, and other authorities; and

“(F) any other information the Coordinator determines to be appropriate.

“SEC. 204. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ISSUANCE AND DISSEMINATION OF ALERTS THROUGH ASHANTI ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF MINIMUM STANDARDS.—Subject to subsection (b), the Coordinator shall establish minimum standards for—

“(1) the issuance of alerts through the Ashanti Alert communications network; and

“(2) the extent of the dissemination of alerts issued through the Ashanti Alert communications network.

“(b) LIMITATIONS.—

“(1) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The minimum standards established under subsection (a) shall, to the maximum extent practicable (as determined by the Coordinator in consultation with State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies), provide for the dissemination of appropriate information relating to the special needs of a missing adult (including health care needs) to the appropriate law enforcement, public health, and other public officials.

“(2) GEOGRAPHIC AREAS.—The minimum standards established under subsection (a)

shall, to the maximum extent practicable (as determined by the Coordinator in consultation with State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies), provide that the dissemination of an alert through the Ashanti Alert communications network shall be limited to the geographic areas that the missing adult could reasonably reach, considering—

“(A) the circumstances and physical and mental condition of the missing adult;

“(B) the modes of transportation available to the missing adult; and

“(C) the circumstances of the disappearance.

“(3) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The minimum standards established under subsection (a) shall require that, in order for an Ashanti Alert to be issued for a missing adult, the missing adult—

“(A) suffers from a proven mental or physical disability, as documented by a source determined credible by an appropriate law enforcement agency; or

“(B) be missing under circumstances that indicate, as determined by an appropriate law enforcement agency—

“(i) that the physical safety of the missing adult may be endangered; or

“(ii) that the disappearance of the missing adult may not have been voluntary, including an abduction or kidnapping.

“(4) SAFETY, PRIVACY, AND CIVIL LIBERTIES PROTECTIONS.—The minimum standards established under subsection (a) shall—

“(A) ensure that alerts issued through the Ashanti Alert communications network comply with all applicable Federal, State, Tribal, and local privacy laws and regulations;

“(B) include standards that specifically provide for the protection of the civil liberties and sensitive medical information of missing adults; and

“(C) include standards requiring, as appropriate, a review of relevant court records, prior contacts with law enforcement, and other information relevant to the missing adult or the individual reporting, in order to provide protections against domestic violence.

“(5) STATE, TRIBAL, AND LOCAL VOLUNTARY COORDINATION.—In establishing minimum standards under subsection (a), the Coordinator may not interfere with the system of voluntary coordination between local broadcasters and State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies for purposes of regional and local search efforts for missing adults that was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this title.

“SEC. 205. VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.

“The minimum standards established under section 204(a), and any other guidelines and programs established under section 203, shall be adoptable on a voluntary basis only.

“SEC. 206. TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

“The Coordinator shall make available to States, Indian Tribes, units of local government, law enforcement agencies, and other concerned entities that are involved in initiating, facilitating, or promoting Ashanti Alert plans, including broadcasters, first responders, dispatchers, public safety communications personnel, and radio station personnel—

“(1) training and educational programs related to the Ashanti Alert communications network and the capabilities, limitations, and anticipated behaviors of missing adults, which the Coordinator shall update regularly to encourage the use of new tools, technologies, and resources in Ashanti Alert plans; and

“(2) informational materials, including brochures, videos, posters, and websites to support and supplement the training and educational programs described in paragraph (1).

“SEC. 207. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There is authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General \$3,000,000 to carry out the Ashanti Alert communications network as authorized under this title for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2022.”

SEC. 3. EMERGENCY FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE.

Section 609Y(a) of the Justice Assistance Act of 1984 (34 U.S.C. 50112(a)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2021” and inserting “September 30, 2022”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 5075, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5075, the Ashanti Alert Act of 2018.

This bill directs the Department of Justice to establish a national communications network, the Ashanti Alert Communications Network, to support the regional and local search efforts for missing adults. It fills the gap between the AMBER Alert and the Silver Alert.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman SCOTT TAYLOR for championing this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is H.R. 5075, the Ashanti Alert Act of 2018. I rise to support the Senate amendment to H.R. 5075, the Ashanti Alert Act of 2018.

This bill seeks to establish a national communications network to help locate missing adults by providing assistance to State, Tribal, and local search efforts. This bill would initiate, facilitate, and promote Ashanti Alert plans in coordination with States, Indian Tribes, units of local government, law enforcement agencies, and other concerned entities with expertise in providing services to adults.

I was pleased when we initially passed this bill last September, and I am even more pleased with the Senate amendment, and so I rise to support this legislation and indicate that as of December 31, 2017, the National Crime Information Center database included records of 55,968 missing adults. In fact, many adults go missing each year that are not found until it is too late.

In particular, the young woman who the bill is named after, Ashanti Billie, was too old for the assistance of an AMBER Alert on her behalf and too young for a Silver Alert. Had these resources been available when Ashanti Billie was abducted, she may be here today.

Mr. Speaker, I enthusiastically support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of H.R. 5075, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 5075.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CLEAN UP THE CODE ACT OF 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7093) to eliminate unused sections of the United States Code, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7093

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Clean Up the Code Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. REPEALS.

The following provisions of title 18, United States Code, are repealed:

- (1) Section 46 relating to transportation of water hyacinths.
- (2) Section 511A relating to unauthorized application of theft prevention decal or device.
- (3) Section 707 relating to 4-H club emblem fraudulently used.
- (4) Section 708 relating to Swiss Confederation coat of arms.
- (5) Section 711 relating to “Smokey Bear” character or name.
- (6) Section 711a relating to “Woodsy Owl” character, name, or slogan.
- (7) Section 715 relating to “The Golden Eagle Insignia”.
- (8) Chapter 89—Professions and Occupations.
- (9) Section 1921 relating to receiving Federal employees’ compensation after marriage.

SEC. 3. CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) TABLE OF CHAPTERS FOR TITLE 18.—The table of chapters for title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to chapter 89.

(b) TABLE OF SECTIONS FOR CHAPTER 3.—The table of sections for chapter 3 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 46.

(c) TABLE OF SECTIONS FOR CHAPTER 25.—The table of sections for chapter 25 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 511A.

(d) TABLE OF SECTIONS FOR CHAPTER 33.—The table of sections for chapter 33 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

- (1) by striking the item relating to section 707;
- (2) by striking the item relating to section 708;

(3) by striking the item relating to section 711;

(4) by striking the item relating to section 711a; and

(5) by striking the item relating to section 715.

(e) TABLE OF SECTIONS FOR CHAPTER 39.—The table of sections for chapter 39 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 1921.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials to H.R. 7093, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is in part a response to the work of the current committee’s Over-Criminalization Task Force. The Judiciary Committee created this task force to look at the growing problems of over-criminalization and over-Federalization of criminal law.

The bill before us adheres to these principles by eliminating several sections of the Federal Criminal Code that have either never been charged, criminalized conduct that should not land someone in Federal prison, such as unauthorized use of the Woodsy Owl image or slogan, or both.

This is a sensible, good-government measure, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) for his work on this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the manager of the bill to support H.R. 7093, the Clean Up the Code Act, as a measure that takes a small step toward addressing the problem of over-criminalization as a result of the hard work of the Over-Criminalization Task Force, of which we look forward to continuing in the next Congress.

This bill repeals several criminal penalties for violations that do not involve serious wrongdoing, or at least not serious enough to warrant criminal prosecution and the consequences of a criminal record. For example, this bill repeals laws that make the unauthorized for-profit use of the Smokey the Bear and Woodsy Owl characters punishable by fine and/or imprisonment for up to 6 months.

The conduct that these laws are designed to deter or punish certainly do not merit criminal sanctions.